

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9965

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0515

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG ELAB PINT LY

SUBJECT: POPULAR COMMITTEES AND THE OIL COMPANIES

REF: TRIPOLI 0502

1. SUMMARY: AMONG OIL COMPANIES ONLY MOBIL EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES WITH POPULAR COMMITTEES. PM JALLUD VISITED MOBIL WORKERS HOLDING MASS MEETING MORNING OF APRIL 22. MOBIL POPULAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOW SEARCHING EVERYONE LEAVING MOBIL BUILDING TO PREVENT " REMOVAL OF DOCUMENTS". MOBIL PROBLEM APPEARS STEM IN PART FROM SERIES OF PERSONAL VENDETTAS AMONG SENIOR LIBYAN EMPLOYEES, PLUS GOVERNMENT- INSPIRED ATTEMPTS FERRET OUT ANY " PARTY MEMBERS." PRESIDENTS OF MOBIL AND AMOSEAS PLAN VOICE INDUSTRY CONCERN TO PETROLEUM UNDERSECRETARY MUNTASSIR APRIL 23. END SUMMARY.

2. ECON OFFICER MET APRIL 22 WITH AMOSEAS PRESIDENT GLOSS FOR REVIEW OF POPULAR COMMITTEES' ACTIVITIES IN OIL COMPANIES AND SEPARATELY WITH MOBIL PRESIDENT WISEMEN TO DISCUSS HIS COMPANY' S SPECIAL PROBLEMS.

3. GLOSS SAID THAT CHECK WITH COMPANIES AFTERNOON APRIL 22 REVEALED NO PROBLEMS OTHER THAN THOSE AT  
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MOBIL. OTHER POPULAR COMMITTEES HAD EITHER NOT YET BEEN ELECTED OR HAD MADE NO DEMANDS TO COMPANY MANAGEMENT. OXY WAS VISITED AFTERNOON APRIL 21 BY ASU BIG- WIG AND FORMER OXY EMPLOYEE, HAMID JALLUD ( NO RELATION TO PM), WHO ASKED TO SEE COMPANY'S COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, TOURED BUILDING AND LEFT. ( FYI: OXY HAS NO ENCRYPTION EQUIPMENT .)

4. MOBIL PRESIDENT WISEMAN SAID THAT MASS MEETING OF COMPANY LIBYAN EMPLOYEES CONVENED MORNING OF APRIL 22. HE NOT INFORMED ABOUT ALL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED, BUT UNDERSTOOD PM JALLUD HAD SAT IN TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER EMPLOYEES HAPPY WITH NEWLY- ELECTED POPULAR COMMITTEE. MANY EMPLOYEES STATED COMMITTEE NOT REPRESENTATIVE. ANGRY WORDS AND COUNTERCHARGES EXCHANGED BETWEEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OTHER WORKERS. JALLUD SUGGESTED DISSOLVING COMMITTEE AND ELECTING NEW ONE. HE ALSO CRITICIZED HIGH SALARIES OF COMPANY'S LIBYAN PROFESSIONALS, SAYING THEY SHOULD BE LOWERED AND HIGHER WAGES GIVEN TO ORDINARY WORKERS. IN VIEW OF JALLUD'S INTERVENTION AND APPARENT DISSATISFACTION OF ANK AND FILE, WISEMAN NOT CERTAIN OF CURRENT STATUS OF MOBIL'S POPULAR COMMITTEE.

5. WISEMAN SAID THAT APRIL 21 FOUR SENIOR LIBYAN MANAGERS LOCKED OUT OF OFFICES AND THEIR FILES SEARCHED BY COMMITTEE. ONE OF THEM, MUFTAH DUWAIK, SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED. MOST DISTURBING NEW DEVELOPMENT IS APPEARANCE OF POPULAR COMMITTEE TEAMS AT ENTRANCE OF MOBIL BUILDING TO SEARCH EVERYONE LEAVING LEST " DOCUMENTS" BE REMOVED. SEARCHES ARE PAINSTAKING AND OFFENSIVE WITH LBYANS AND EXPATRIATES ALIKE. FOR EXAMPLE MALE EMPLOYEES ARE ASKED TURN OUT THEIR POCKETS AND SECRETARIES TO OPEN THEIR PURSES.

6. WISEMAN ADITS MOBIL HAS SPECIAL PROBLEM, STEMMING LARGELY FROM FESTERING JEALOUSIES AND ANIMOSITIES AMONG SENIOR LIBYAN EMPLOYEES. THIS ATMOSPHERE HAS ENCOURAGED DENUNCIATIONS AND LOCKOUTS PARTICULARLY SINCE LARG APPARENTLY LOOKING FOR " DISLOYAL" ELEMENTS ANYWAY. IT MAY ALSO ACCOUNT FOR DISSATISFACTION ON PART OF RANK AND FILE WITH POPULAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO ARE, IN CONFIDENTIAL

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WISEMAN'S VIEW, MERELY ATTEMPTING PURSUE PERSONAL

VENDETTAS. MOBIL HAS RECEIVED NO FURTHER COMPLAINTS AGAINST U. S. EXPATRIATES OTHER THAN AGAINST LAWYER SWANNER ( REFTEL), WHO HAS LONG BEEN UNPOPULAR AND SCHEDULED FOR TRANSFER OUT OF LAR ANYWAY. COMPANY STILL NOT ABLE SEND OUT CODED MESSAGES, BUT POPULAR COMMITTEE HAS NOT AGAIN RAISED QUESTION OF FOREIGN TRAINING/ SCHOLARSHIPS. LLISEMAN CONVINCED AIRM OF COMMITTEE IS NOT TOTAL CANCELLATION OF FOREIGN TRAINING PROGRAMS; RATHER, TO MAKE DECISIONS WHO WILL AND WHO WILL NOT BE SENT ABROAD.

7. WISEMAN SAID OPERATIONS ARE NORMAL IN THE FIELD, BUT THAT WITCH- HUNT ATMOSPHERE IN MAIN OFFICE BEGINNING TO TAKE ITS TOLL ON MORALE AND PERFORMANCE. HE AND GLOSS PLAN TO CALL ON PETROLEUM UNDERSECRETARY MUNTASSIR TO VOICE GENERAL INDUSTRY CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION AND DESCRIBE MOBIL' S PROBLEMS IN PARTICULAR.

8. COMMENT: NO QUESTION IN OUR MINDS BUT THAT MOBIL IS A SPECIAL CASE AMONG OIL COMPANIES. IT HAS LONG HAD RECORD OF POOR LABOR- MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AND HARBORS A NUMBER OF DISAFFECTED AND BELLICOSE SENIOR LIBYANS. APPROACH TO MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM IS PROBABLY POORLY TIMED BECAUSE ENOUGH HAS TRANSPPIRED TO GIVE COMPANIES, PARTICULARLY MOBIL, A GOOD CASE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THOUGH NORTHING IRREVERSIBLE HAS BEEN SET IN MOTION, IN COUNTRY LIKE LAR ISOLATED INCIDENTS CAN BECOME PRECEDENTS.  
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